DETAILED ACTION

1.   A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in

37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection.   Since this application is

eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e)

has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to

37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on November 18, 2009 has been entered.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2.   An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or

additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR

1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the

payment of the issue fee.

3.   The applicant's representative Allan M. Lowe (Reg. No.: 19,641) authorized the

following examiner's amendment on January 4, 2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

Amendments to the claims:

1.   (Currently amended) A system for authenticating a user, the system

comprising:

a terminal,

an [[An]] authentication server for automatically selecting one of a plurality of authentications identified respectively by authentication identifiers in order to authenticate said [[a]] user of [[a]] said terminal in order to authorize said user to access a service dispensed by one of service servers of providers identified respectively by provider identifiers via a communication network, ~~the authentication server comprising:~~

a memory for storing correspondences between authentication identifiers, provider identifiers, types of terminal and types of communication network,

a reception arrangement for receiving from said terminal a provider identifier selected in said terminal in response to a connection set up between said user terminal and said authentication server without any prior connection between said user terminal and one of said service servers,

a selector arrangement for selecting an authentication identifier in said memory as a function of said selected provider identifier and the type of at least one of said terminal and said communication network,

an authenticator arrangement for authenticating said user by using an authentication associated with said selected authentication identifier, ~~and~~

a redirection arrangement for redirecting said connection with said terminal

to a service server corresponding to said selected provider identifier if said user has

been authenticated,

wherein said selector arrangement is arranged to transmit to said terminal a

list of services identified by service identifiers in said memory in response to said

connection set up between said user terminal and said authentication server, and

said user terminal is arranged to transmit to said selector arrangement a service

identifier of a service selected by said user in the transmitted list in order for said

selector arrangement to select said authentication identifier in said memory as a

function of said selected service identifier, and

wherein said selector arrangement is arranged to transmit to said terminal a

list of provider identifiers read in said memory in response to said connection set

up between said user terminal and said authentication server, and said user terminal

is arranged to transmit to said selector arrangement a provider identifier selected

by said user in the transmitted list in order for said selector arrangement to select

said authentication identifier as a function of said selected provider identifier.

2.   (Currently amended) The ~~authentication server~~ system according to claim 1,

wherein said selector arrangement is arranged to select said authentication

identifier in said memory as a function of an authentication security level in corresponding relationship to said selected provider identifier.

3.   (Currently amended) The ~~authentication server~~ <u>system</u> according to claim 1, wherein said selector arrangement is arranged to select said authentication identifier in said memory as a function of authentication rules associated with said selected provider identifier and applied to at least an authentication security level corresponding to at least one of said selected provider identifier and said terminal type and said communication network type.

4.   (Cancelled).

5.   (Cancelled).

6.   (Cancelled).

7.   (Currently amended) The ~~authentication server~~ <u>system</u> according to claim 1, wherein, if said user has been authenticated, the authenticator arrangement is arranged to transmit to said service server said terminal type, said communication

network type, said transmitted service identifier, and a security level of the authentication read in said memory and associated with said selected authentication identifier.

8.   (Currently amended) The ~~authentication server~~ <u>system</u> according to claim 1, further comprising two separate servers respectively including said selector arrangement and said authenticator arrangement.

9.   (Currently amended) A method <u>for authenticating a user</u> in an authentication server ~~of automatically~~, <u>the method comprising:</u>

selecting one of a plurality of authentications identified respectively by authentication identifiers in order to authenticate [[a]] <u>said</u> user of a terminal to authorize said user to access a service dispensed by one of service servers of providers identified respectively by provider identifiers via a communication network, ~~the method comprising:~~

[[-]]storing in a memory correspondences between authentication identifiers, provider identifiers, types of terminal and types of communication network,

[[-]]receiving from said terminal a provider identifier selected in said terminal in response to a connection set up between said user terminal and said

authentication server without any prior connection between said user terminal and one of said service servers,

[[-]]selecting an authentication identifier in said memory as a function of said selected provider identifier and the type of at least one of said terminal and said communication network,

[[-]]authenticating said user by an authentication associated with said selected authentication identifier, ~~and~~

[[-]]redirecting said connection with said terminal to a service server corresponding to said selected provider identifier if said user has been authenticated,

transmitting to said terminal a list of services identified by service identifiers in said memory in response to said connection set up between said user terminal and said authentication server, and said user terminal is arranged to transmit to a selector arrangement a service identifier of a service selected by said user in the transmitted list in order for said selector arrangement to select said authentication identifier in said memory as a function of said selected service identifier, and

transmitting to said terminal a list of provider identifiers read in said memory in response to said connection set up between said user terminal and said authentication server, and said user terminal is arranged to transmit to a selector

arrangement a provider identifier selected by said user in the transmitted list in order for said selector arrangement to select said authentication identifier as a function of said selected provider identifier.

10.   (Currently amended) A ~~physical information~~ computer readable storage medium ~~or storage~~ device ~~adapted to be~~ loaded with executable program ~~into executed~~ by an authentication server, ~~the medium or storage device including~~ comprising:

computer readable coded indicia representing [[a]] said program for ~~enabling~~ the authentication server to automatically select one of a plurality of authentications respectively identified by authentication identifiers in order to authenticate a user of a terminal in order to authorize said user to access a service dispensed by one of service servers of providers identified respectively by provider identifiers via a communication network, said program including program instructions for ~~enabling~~ the authentication server to:

[[-]]store in a memory correspondences between authentication identifiers, provider identifiers, types of terminal and types of communication network,

[[-]]receive from said terminal a provider identifier selected in said terminal in response to a connection set up between said user terminal and said

authentication server without any prior connection between said user terminal and one of said service servers,

select an authentication identifier in said memory as a function of said selected provider identifier and the type of at least one of said terminal and said communication network, authenticate said user by an authentication associated with said authentication identifier, ~~and~~

redirect said connection with said terminal to a service server corresponding to said selected provider identifier if said user has been authenticated,

transmit to said terminal a list of services identified by service identifiers in said memory in response to said connection set up between said user terminal and said authentication server, and said user terminal is arranged to transmit to a selector arrangement a service identifier of a service selected by said user in the transmitted list in order for said selector arrangement to select said authentication identifier in said memory as a function of said selected service identifier, and

transmit to said terminal a list of provider identifiers read in said memory in response to said connection set up between said user terminal and said authentication server, and said user terminal is arranged to transmit to a selector arrangement a provider identifier selected by said user in the transmitted list in

order for said selector arrangement to select said authentication identifier as a

function of said selected provider identifier.

11.   (Cancelled).

12.   (Cancelled).

13.   (Cancelled).

14.   (Cancelled).

15.   (Cancelled).

16.   (Cancelled).

17.   (Cancelled).

18.   (Cancelled).

19.   (Currently amended) ~~The system~~ <u>An authentication server arrangement</u> according to claim 1, wherein there is no connection between the user terminal and the service server during receiving from said terminal a provider identifier, selecting an authentication identifier, and authenticating said user.

20.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein there is no connection between the user terminal and the service server during the receiving, selecting, and authenticating steps.

Reason for allowance

4.   Claims 1-3, 7-10 and 19-20 are allowed.

5.   The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

After consideration of the applicant's remark and request for continued examination filed on November 18, 2009 with respect to the prior arts in record and through examination of claims 1-3, 7-10 and 19-20 in consideration of the authorized examiner's amendment shown above and further search, the prior arts of record neither anticipates nor renders obvious the claimed subject matter of the instant application as a whole either taken alone or in combination and the claims having particular features have been found in condition for allowance.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the

payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for

Allowance."

Conclusion

6.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's

disclosure. See the notice of reference cited in form PTO-892 for additional prior art.

Contact Information

7.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Techane J. Gergiso whose telephone number is (571) 272-3784

and fax number is (571) 273-3784. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00am - 6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor,

Emmanuel Moise can be reached on (571) 272-3865. The fax phone number for the organization

where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished

applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR

system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Techane J. Gergiso/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2437